

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

To: Kane, NMSS  
Appropriate Action

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: JOANN COOK  
AFFILIATION:  
ADDRESSEE: ROY BARNES  
SUBJECT: HATCH POWER PLANT

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ACTION: Appropriate  
DISTRIBUTION:

LETTER DATE: 06/24/2000

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

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June 24, 2000

The Honorable Roy Barnes  
Governor of the State of Georgia  
203 State Capitol Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Transmitted by FAX to 404/657-7332

Dear Governor Barnes:

A disturbing story about the pending use of the untested Hotec HISTAR dry casks for spent nuclear fuel storage at Plant Hatch in Baxley prompts my writing. This seems to be happening without much public information being disseminated for comment.

The unproved storage methods being proposed will sit alongside the Altamaha River near prime agricultural areas, in a floodplain, an earthquake zone and in a region ripe for hurricane damage. It is close enough for damage to severely impact the water, air and soil of the nearby towns as well as all of coastal Georgia.

The reported estimated mrems that will be emitted from these outdoor 'casks' is so alarming, if true, that immediate investigation by your staff is needed. If the EPA allows 25 mrems per year currently at the site boundary, how can the estimated one million mrems from these casks be 'managed' by The Southern Company proposal. It doesn't add up to safety and concern for Georgia's citizens or the environment.

Experimental nuclear storage should not be tested in a populated, environmentally sensitive area like the jewel in the crown of Georgia - its coastal barrier islands. Find a way to halt these plans before southeastern coastal Georgia becomes a regional nuclear dumping ground.

How many more Superfund Sites can we handle in the future? How much liability exposure from toxic wastes can the State of Georgia continue to manage and shove under the carpet? Where are the guarantees of safety for Georgia citizens and visitors. Brunswick is already a toxic mess. This cannot continue.

Sincerely

Joann C. Cook

copies: Chairman Meserve, NRC - Washington, DC by fax

Mr. Luis Reyes, Regional Administrator, NRC - Atlanta by fax

Senator Tommie Williams - by e-mail

Representative Stephen Scarlett by letter